(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps to make possible the reduction of fruit processing costs in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) While it is for the entrepreneurs to decide the items to be processed and the equipments and technology to be used, the technical staff of the Ministry advises entrepreneurs on various aspects including technology for reducing the fruit processing costs. The Government has also liberalised the import of equipments and technology and has provided fiscal relief on equipments & machinery etc.

Deep sea fishing industry

280. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any plans to revive the deep-sea fishing industry and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any aid has been sought from World Bank for revival of deep-sea fishing industry and if so, the status of the aid programme; and

(c) whether in any of its project profiles for deep-sea fishing, the Government has considered Malpe fishing complex of Karnataka as a base for pilot demonstration project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) :

(a) Rehabilitation assistance was extended to the sick deep sea fishing companies assisted by the erstwhile SDFC under a rehabilitation scheme announced by the Government of India in April, 1991. This rehabilitation scheme, which was drawn up by the Government of India. In consultation with the fishing industry, envisaged concessions which included waiver of penal interest, recapitalisation of overdue amounts repayable over the balance economic life of the vessel, additional financial assistance for meeting increased cost of acquisition of vessels, financial assistance for repair and re-modification of vessels etc. The above rehabilitation package was further liberalised in June, 1992.

(b) Yes, Sir. World Bank was requested to fund the Demonstration Commercial Fishing for diversification of part of the present fishing fleet. The diversification of part of his fleet is crucial to the revival of the deep sea fishing industry. The World Bank has now communicated that deep sea fishing is not one of the priorities of their Agriculture Division's pipeline. They have, however, stated that the subject is interesting and important and they would share with the Government any information on possible assistance if it becomes available.

(c) No, Sir.

Neglect of various food processing sectors

281. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the new item which appeared in the Economic Times dated 30th March, 1993 captioned "Government gambles on glitzy generic ad to boost food processing";

(b) whether the Ministry of Food processing Industries has neglected the State of health of many vital sectors coming under its jurisdiction;

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to stablise various sectors like deep-sea fisheries and vegetable processing units which are facing crises ;

(d) whether it is a fact that over Rs. 1 crore is being spent on ads; and

(e) the steps being taken to avoid high expenditure on account of publicity?

THE MINISTER OF STATES OF THE MINISTRY OF FODD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) This Ministry has formulated seversal developmental plan schemes for providing assistance for setting up of fruit & vegetable processing units, development of backward linkages, infrastructure developments, marketing, cold chains, diversification of deep sea fishing operations, setting up of fish processing units etc. A scheme for rehabilitation of the sick deep-sea fishing companies was announced in April, 1991 which had been further liberalised in June, 1992. A new deep sea fishing policy of joint ventures, leasing and test fishing has been operationalised.

(d) and (e) During the year 1992-93, under plan scheme of generic advertising on processed foods and for providing marketing assistance, a sum of approx. Rs. 42 lakhs was spent for popularising Food Product Order Symbol (FPO symbol) as well as for creating consumer awareness/ confidence about advantages such as hygence, confidence, off-seasonal availability, etc. of processed fruit & vegetable products. During the year 1993-94, a provision of Rs. 1.50 crores has been made under the above scheme for the generic publicity of processed food for domestic market and export as well as providing marketing assistance for marketing of products of small scale food processing units.

SHORTAGE OF ANTI-T.B. MEDICINES

282. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the anti-tuberculosis medicines have been virtually out of stock in the various Government hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have received requisitions for supply of medicines from the State Health Departments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (c) Some shortage was reported in the early part of last financial year, thereafter Central supply of Anti-T. B. Drugs has been increased from Rs. 8.22 crores in 1991-92 to Rs. 26.5 crores in 1992-93.

ENHANCEMENT IN THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE IN THE NORTHERN STATES

283. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the infant mortality rate is increasing day by day due to Khasra, Kalaazar, Kali-Khansi and other infectious diseases in the Northern States, particularly in Bihar and U.P.

(b) if so, the number of such deaths till March, 1993, and details thereof disease-wise; and

(c) what are the steps taken/likely to be taken by Govt. to prevent infant mortality, details thereof State-wise, stating any special drive to be launched by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) As per data furnished by the Registrar General of India, there has been a decline in the infant mortality rate in all the northern states except Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh since, 1988.

(b) Age specific disease-wise record of deaths in the states are not maintained.

(c) Measures taken to reduce infant mortality rate include, interalia, immunization, oral rehydration therapy, prophylaxis of anaemia and Vitamin A deficiency, newborn care, treatment of pneumonia and promotion of breastfeeding.